

In the Claims

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The circuit of claim 25 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the peak detector further comprises:

a first peak detector having an input coupled to the one or more critical nodes in the RF power amplifier output of the power amplifier; and

a second peak detector having an input coupled to a reference tone.

3. (original) The circuit of claim 2, wherein outputs of the first and second peak detectors are combined to provide a peak detection signal to the control circuitry.

4. (original) The circuit of claim 3, wherein the first and second peak detectors are matched.

5. (original) The circuit of claim 3, wherein the outputs of the first and second peak detectors are combined by subtracting the output of the second peak detector from the output of the first peak detector.

6. (original) The circuit of claim 3, further comprising a divider circuit coupled between the first peak detector and the output of the power amplifier.

7. (currently amended) The circuit of claim 6 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the divider is comprised of a first and second capacitor coupled between the output of the power amplifier and ground.

8. (currently amended) The circuit of claim 25 ~~claim 1~~, further comprising a power detector coupled to the output of the power amplifier and to the control circuitry for detecting the output power of the power amplifier.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The circuit of claim 32 ~~claim 9~~, wherein the peak detector is comprised of first and second matched peak detectors.

11. (original) The circuit of claim 10, wherein the first peak detector is coupled to the output of the power amplifier and the second peak detector is coupled to a reference tone.

12. (original) The circuit of claim 11, wherein the first and second peak detectors are matched.

13. (currently amended) The circuit of claim 32 ~~claim 9~~, further comprising a power detector coupled to the output of the power amplifier and to the power control circuitry for detecting the output power of the power amplifier.

14. (original) A method of protecting devices in an RF power amplifier comprising the steps of:

detecting a peak voltage at a first node of the power amplifier;

determining whether the detected peak voltage is higher than a threshold voltage; and

if it is determined that the detected peak voltage is higher than the threshold voltage, decreasing the gain of the power amplifier.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of detecting the output power of the power amplifier.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the gain of the power amplifier is increased if the detected output power is less than a desired power level, and if the detected peak voltage is lower than the threshold voltage.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the gain of the power amplifier is decreased if the detected output power is greater than a desired power level, or if the detected peak voltage is higher than the threshold voltage.

Claims 18-24 (canceled)

25. (new) A circuit for protecting devices in an RF power amplifier comprising:
a peak detector coupled to one or more critical nodes in the RF power amplifier for detecting peak voltages at the one or more critical nodes; and
control circuitry coupled to the peak detector and to the power amplifier for controlling the gain of the power amplifier, wherein the control circuitry decreases the gain of the power amplifier when the peak detector detects a voltage above a voltage threshold.

26. (new) The circuit of claim 25, wherein the peak detector detects peak voltages present across one or more transistors in the RF power amplifier.

27. (new) The circuit of claim 25, wherein the peak detector detects peak voltages present across one or more switching devices in the RF power amplifier.

28. (new) The circuit of claim 25, wherein the one or more critical nodes do not include the output of the power amplifier.

29. (new) The circuit of claim 25, further comprising a divider circuit coupled between the peak detector and the one or more critical nodes.

30. (new) The circuit of claim 29, wherein the divider circuit is a capacitive divider circuit.

31. (new) The circuit of claim 29, wherein the divider circuit divides the voltage detected at the one or more critical nodes; and wherein the input of the peak detector is coupled to the divided voltage.

32. (new) A circuit comprising:

an RF power amplifier having an input and an output;

a peak detector coupled to the power amplifier for detecting a peak voltage at a node of the

power amplifier, wherein the node is a node other than the output of the power amplifier;

and

power control circuitry coupled to the peak detector and to the power amplifier for controlling

the gain of the power amplifier, wherein the power control circuitry limits the power at

the output of the power amplifier when the peak detector detects a peak voltage greater

than a threshold voltage.

33. (new) The circuit of claim 32, further comprising a divider circuit coupled between the peak detector and the node of the power amplifier.